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Clementine Global Geodetic/Cartographic Accuracy

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The Clementine Mission provided complete global lunar imaging coverage, which was augmented with LIDAR ranging data. The global imaging data, taken by the UVVis Camera, had a ground resolution of about 100-150 m/pixel while the LIDAR data had a ranging resolution of 45 m. UVVis stereo imaging of the poles and other regions were obtained. HiRes Camera imaging had an effective resolution of about 20m, but this was not a global dataset. The Clementine spacecraft had two star trackers for attitude control (instrument pointing) having an accuracy of about 0.03 deg (1σ). The spacecraft orbit (periselene altitude of ≈ 400 km) was reconstructed to an accuracy of better than 100m along track and out-of-plane and better than 30m in range. Also, the instrument alignments and geometric properties were determined to an accuracy of better than 0.01 deg using star fields and locating the LIDAR footprint in image coordinates.

Computing the lunar-fixed coordinates of any feature in a single UVVis image would yield an accuracy of about 200m (1σ), anywhere on the moon which represents a significant improvement in some areas having uncertainties of over 5 km. Additional improvement for Clementine can be made using standard photogrammetric techniques which takes advantage of averaging the randomness of pointing and orbit errors over the global datasets. A global cartographic control network can be produced having an absolute accuracy of 50m or better in latitude and longitude. An error in elevation, for those areas not covered by stereo imaging or by LIDAR could be as large as 1 km since variations in topography of ± 10 km have been seen with LIDAR. Good correlation was found to exist between elevations derived from LIDAR and stereo imaging. Example of cartographic accuracy including imaging and LIDAR derived topography will be presented.

Parts of this research were performed at the California Institute of Technology, Jet Propulsion Laboratory under the NASA Clementine Science Team Program.

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